

HOUSE BILL NO. 612

INTRODUCED BY P. CLARK

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A BILL FOR AN ACT ENTITLED: "AN ACT REQUIRING THE CAPTURE, TAGGING, AND TRANSPLANTATION OF PROBLEM BLACK BEARS THAT DAMAGE BEEHIVES ONE TIME, WITH SOME EXCEPTIONS; REQUIRING LETHAL REMOVAL OF THE BEAR IF THE BEAR DAMAGES BEEHIVES A SECOND TIME; AND PROVIDING AN IMMEDIATE EFFECTIVE DATE."

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF MONTANA:

NEW SECTION. **Section 1. Regulation of bear causing damage to beehives.** (1) When the

department receives a report of damage by a black bear to beehives, the department shall whenever possible trap the bear, tag the bear as a problem animal, and transplant the bear into suitable habitat with approval by cooperative agreement with the appropriate land management agency or, in the event of release on department game ranges, with the permission of the regional supervisor.

(2) If the bear damages beehives a second time, the bear shall be removed immediately by means of direct control.

(3) The provisions of subsections (1) and (2) do not apply to a black bear that is considered unsuitable for transplant by reason of character, disposition, or physical fitness.

NEW SECTION. **Section 2. Codification instruction.** [Section 1] is intended to be codified as an integral part of Title 87, chapter 1, part 2, and the provisions of Title 87, chapter 1, part 2, apply to [section 1].

NEW SECTION. **Section 3. Effective date.** [This act] is effective on passage and approval.

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